

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 56

Introduced by Assembly Member Alarcon

December 4, 2006

An act to add Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 25100) to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 56, as introduced, Alarcon. Secretary for Poverty.

Existing law establishes various state programs designed to provide social services and health care coverage to low-income individuals in California.

This bill would create a cabinet-level position of Secretary for Poverty in California, and would provide that the secretary shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill would require the secretary to review the work of the state agencies, departments, and offices that implement and administer antipoverty programs in the state to determine whether those agencies, departments, and offices are operating in the most efficient and effective manner possible. The bill would require the secretary to submit his or her findings with respect to that review to the Legislature and the Governor. The bill would also require the secretary to report to the Legislature, on a regular basis, regarding any pending bills that may impact programs for the working poor in the state.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 25100)
2 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

3
4 DIVISION 25.5. SECRETARY FOR POVERTY
5

6 25100. There is hereby created in state government the
7 cabinet-level position of Secretary for Poverty. The secretary shall
8 be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the
9 Senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

10 25101. (a) The secretary shall be responsible for reviewing
11 the work of the state agencies, departments, and offices that
12 implement and administer antipoverty programs in the state to
13 determine if those agencies, departments, and offices are operating
14 in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

15 (b) The secretary shall submit his or her findings with respect
16 to the review conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the
17 Legislature and the Governor. The secretary shall also report to
18 the Legislature, on a regular basis, regarding any pending bills that
19 may impact programs for the working poor in the state.